

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Baesu, Bearnese, Boudreau, Eklund, Kolbe, Krehbiel, Latta Konecky, Lott, Minter, Zuckerman

**Absent:** Kolbe, Paul, Weissling

**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**Location:** Nebraska Union, Big Ten Conference Room

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

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### 1.0 Call (*Minter*)

Minter called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

### 2.0 EVC Ankerson

**2.1 All diplomas are from the University of Nebraska, not a specific campus, yet the tuition rates vary from campus to campus. UNO's recent announcement of the Omaha Urban Rate is providing in-state tuition for students in 11 different states. Why can't there be one tuition rate for the University system?**

EVC Ankerson pointed out that while the undergraduate diplomas do state that the degree is from the University of Nebraska, it also states Lincoln and is branded with UNL's "N." She noted that graduate degrees are awarded by the University of Nebraska Graduate College but are still branded for UNL with our "N."

EVC Ankerson noted that there are many differences between the campuses such as admission requirements, peer groups, and our basic mission. UNL is a land grant, research tier one comprehensive university, while UNO and UNK do not hold these distinctions. She stated that regarding UNO's recent announcement of its Omaha Urban Rate plan for 11 neighboring states, the plan does not provide out-of-state students with in-state tuition rates, but it does lower their out-of-state tuition from \$738 per credit hour to \$353 per credit hour (in-state tuition is \$235 per credit hour). She noted that we can offer qualifying out-of-state students with the Beadle scholarship which provides \$15,000 in remission which brings the UNL tuition rate down to \$330 per credit hour and the Ruth Leverton scholarship is just one step below providing \$13,000 in remission bringing our out-of-state tuition rate down to \$397 per credit hour. She reported that the idea of having a one-tuition rate was being discussed several years ago but it was determined that having a one-tuition rate would substantially decrease our net tuition revenue.

Minter stated that it feels like the playing field for recruiting out-of-state students is not quite level between the campuses. She stated that the nature of the scholarship packet that UNL can offer in-state students as compared to out-of-state students is different. EVC Ankerson stated that our out-of-state pilot program has run for one year and we have added additional states just this year, but we won't be able to evaluate the

effectiveness until we can compare the data over time. We have seen improvement in admissions from two or three states in the initial pilot. She indicated that what the Executive Committee members may be speaking about with the UNO tuition plan is about marketing. She noted that UNO has done a good job with effectively marketing the change they made. Eklund agreed that UNO's marketing is very effective noting that he is losing his best freshman student, who is from Iowa to UNO because his tuition rate will drop significantly at UNO because of this new tuition program it is offering. He pointed out that it is not effective to recruit students in the Omaha area anymore. He noted that the Executive Committee asked the Chancellor why South Dakota is not included in our pilot program schools to offer reduced tuition rates and the Committee was told that we have many students from South Dakota who pay the full tuition rate. He stated that giving these students some tuition break would help increase enrollment and would be better than having an empty seat in a classroom. EVC Ankerson reported that UNL is working on strategic enrollment with Ruffalo Noel Levitz, a consultant who works with universities on strategic enrollment planning to effectively increase our enrollment.

**2.2 How are our admission numbers from the states that are involved in our pilot tuition program?**

EVC Ankerson stated that we are still in the admission cycle for fall of 2023, but the percentage data from the first pilot group showed an increase in net deposits from California with 45 students versus 35 in previous years; Colorado had an increase from 77 new freshmen to 103, and Texas had a slight decrease. She stated that with the additional states that were added to the pilot program things are looking fairly good although Illinois was down slightly because we lost a recruiter in the state.

**2.3 Are we losing revenue because many incoming freshmen are not taking 100 level classes since they have so many AP classes from high school? Many students who have taken AP classes in high school are not prepared for higher level courses at UNL. Are the AP classes impacting our retention rates?**

EVC Ankerson reported that while many of the local students have taken AP classes, rural students and those with limited financial resources don't always have that ability. She noted that some students may now be eligible to take some courses at community colleges for free, which is something that we are looking at very carefully to see what impacts it would have for us.

**2.4 Are there estimates on the number of credit hours that new students took this year?**

EVC Ankerson stated that estimates of credit hours for fall 2022 semester for first year students shows that 58.10% took 15 credit hours or more, while 41.9% took less than 15 credits. She stated that even though some first-year students may have taken AP courses, they are still registering for classes. She noted that AVC Goodburn has recently looked at what kinds of courses students are registering for and what courses they need, and adjustments are being made to provide courses in high demand. She pointed out that retention rates are improving slightly.

Minter stated that she thinks that the AP courses impact the 100-level courses more and she has found that many students that come in with AP courses wind up taking more credit hours than they need to graduate. Krehbiel pointed out that she knows of a student who took AP classes in high school but wished he didn't because he felt like he lost that opportunity in his first year at UNL to take courses in disciplines that he might be interested in to discover what he would like to do. Minter noted that her department is working on trying to build courses that students want to elect to take rather than being required to take.

**2.5 Legislative bill LB281 was presented to the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee and calls for the rebuilding of the Halsey 4-H camp in the Nebraska National Forest. Are you aware of plans to rebuild the camp? Where will the kids go this summer?**

VC Boehm reported that there is quite a community-based effort to secure some funds to rebuild the Halsey 4-H camp. He noted that LB281 was proposed by Senators Jacobson and Brewer and originally requested \$50 million to build a youth outdoor facility although the bill did not specify where the facility would be located. He stated that there was quite a bit of support but recently the bill has been rolled into a new bill, LB 425, one of two Natural Resources Committee priority bills, and it caps the state funding at \$15 million for the facility. The bill states that the funds could be used for a single project, but there needs to be a dollar-to-dollar match of private funding before the state would release the funds. He reported that the Nebraska Community Foundation has been actively engaged to see what the community and stakeholder interest would be in building an outdoor youth facility. He pointed out that there is very high interest to build something by the Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City or out in Holdrege. He understands that the Nebraska 4-H Foundation who owns the destroyed building at Halsey would be willing to use some of their insurance proceeds for the dollar-to-dollar match. Eklund asked how much of the insurance proceeds would go towards the dollar-to-dollar match. VC Boehm noted that the decision was made a long time ago to have a fixed amount of insurance, but it is nowhere near the amount that would be needed, and the majority of the proceeds will need to be used to clean up the existing site. He stated that the Nebraska 4-H Foundation has committed to forming some kind of youth platform for fundraising.

EVC Boehm reported that Nebraska 4-H will continue to provide residential 4-H camping for youth through partnerships with other campsites and Nebraska Game and Parks. He stated that this summer 4-H overnight camps will be offered at Chadron, Cozad, Ashland, Burwell, and Louisville. This will also provide opportunities for young people to take full advantage of environmental education closer to their homes and reach under-served audiences in new and accessible ways.

**2.6 The January pre-session has shortened the summer calendar. Will both City and East campus be able to continue to open their facilities to host events and will there be impacts to the summer revenue streams because of the shortened summer session?**

EVC Ankerson noted that the January pre-session does impact the summer in a variety of ways including the various camps and activities that take place each summer and in turnaround time for Housing to prepare the housing units. She stated that we will need to see how much of an impact it will have as we move forward this summer.

**2.7 Update on the search for Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.**

EVC Ankerson reported that the search is progressing well, and the committee just recently reviewed the applications and initial Zoom meetings will be occurring soon. She stated that the plan is to bring candidates in the weeks of May 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2.8 When will a search begin to fill the Dean of University Libraries position that will soon be vacated by Dean Stewart?**

EVC Ankerson stated that Dean Stewart's last day is May 1<sup>st</sup> and Professor Lorang will serve as interim dean. She stated that currently search firms are being considered to assist with the search. She stated that she hopes that we will be in the midst of the search process in the fall semester.

**2.9 Is the President's Office coordinating the itinerary for the Chancellor candidate that will be invited to campus? Given the time of the semester and the end of the academic year, faculty who will be involved with the interviews should be made aware of when the on-campus visit might occur.**

EVC Ankerson reported that the President's Office will be coordinating the Chancellor's search and will schedule the interviews.

**3.0 Announcements**

**3.1 Board of Regents Meeting**

Minter reported that at the Board of Regents meeting there was a vote to change the ethics statement that pertains to the Regents. She noted that the Board elected to move from an enumerated list of specific obligations to broader language outlining broad responsibilities. And the language suggests that all university employees are obligated to the same ethical principles. Minter noted that while this is true (and no new obligations are outlined for employees) it is concerning to see the Board adopt language regarding "all employees" without consulting faculty.

Minter stated that there really should be at least an NU faculty representative on the Board. She pointed out that the Senate Presidents of the four campuses attend the Board meetings, but they do not have a seat on the Board, although the students have four seats. She noted that the Presidents meet with Provost Gold after the meeting which is good for cross conversation with the Presidents of the campuses, but it is not the same as working with the Regents. Eklund asked if there would be merit for the faculty to request having a seat on the Board even if it is a non-voting seat. Minter noted that it could be one seat for a President of the Faculty Senate, and this could be rotated between the campuses.

Minter reported that the Regents meeting was held at UNO and commended UNO on the presentation it made to the Board pointing out that the Regents were very impressed with how UNO is focusing on filling the workforce needs for the state. The Executive

Committee agreed that UNL needs to market itself better by showing the work that UNL does and the importance of it. The Committee agreed that this would be a good subject to discuss with the Chancellor.

### **3.2 Elsevier Contract and Open Access**

Minter stated that a faculty member requested information about the renegotiation of the Elsevier contract, and she reached out to Boudreau who reported that the renegotiation was done through the University of Nebraska Consortium of Libraries and was just approved by the Board of Regents last Friday. She noted that, at this time, there is nothing in writing or that has been published regarding the details of the contract, but the Libraries' Dean's office is handling any questions or inquiries: [librariesdean@unl.edu](mailto:librariesdean@unl.edu).

Boudreau stated that more information is available on open access and Professor Gardner, the Libraries' Scholarly Communications Librarian, recently gave a presentation on the topic which is available online at [https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/library\\_talks/173/](https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/library_talks/173/). There is also a library guide that talks about the different open access publishing agreements <https://unl.libguides.com/c.php?g=1133452>.

## **4.0 Approval of April 4, 2023 Minutes**

The Executive Committee approved the minutes.

## **5.0 Unfinished Business**

### **5.1 Status of Professional Code of Conduct**

Griffin asked what the status is of the Professional Code of Conduct that was drafted sometime ago. Minter reported that the Code is now being reformatted and will hopefully be given to General Counsel for review over the summer. The plan is to present it to the Faculty Senate in the fall for approval.

### **5.2 Calendar Committee**

Minter stated that the Calendar Committee is working on finishing its report.

### **5.3 Update on Ad Hoc EM 16 Committee**

Minter reported that the committee is together, and she is working on finding a member who is willing to serve as chair. She noted that the committee may need to be expanded and a Senator has come forward to serve as an additional member of the committee.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Computers Crashing in Association with Palo Alto Connection?**

Bearnes reported that she has heard of seven Extension people having their computers crash and it seems to be in association with connection to Palo Alto. She asked if others had heard of similar problems. Minter stated that she has not heard of this problem from others.

Minter did note that her college sent out an IT update listing the things that will happen in May in association with EM 16. She questioned whether others have received the information. Other Executive Committee members stated that they have not received any

information and there was agreement that this needs to be raised with CIO Tuttle because ITS messaging should be the same across the campus.

## **6.2 Agenda Items for Chancellor Green**

The Executive Committee identified the following agenda items for the Chancellor:

- With legislation being considered to allow people to carry a concealed weapon without a permit will UNL still ban guns from campus? If so, is there any way to enforce this policy?
- In your opinion, what does the current legislative environment mean for recruiting and retaining faculty members?
- President Carter discussed a structural deficit for the University system of approximately \$31 million. What do you think will happen if there is not a tuition increase to help generate revenue?
- Who is responsible for UNL's marketing and is there a way to market our research mission and UNL better?
- What does the future hold for college athletics with NIL and other things occurring with college athletics? What is the future of the NCAA?
- What is your perspective of shared governance in the future?
- Should there be some standards in how positions get described and how apportionments are made so there is not such a difference across the campus.
- When are the changes with using Concur that you previously mentioned going to occur?

## **6.3 Course Evaluations**

Baesu stated that some professors would like to give extra credit to students who do a course evaluation, but they have been told that this can no longer be done. Minter stated that there was concern about incentivizing students to fill out the course evaluations, although she is unsure how this would be detected. Eklund asked if everyone has the same evaluation questions since they went to a digital format. Minter pointed out that there are basic questions that are on all course evaluations, but units can add their own questions as well. Zuckerman pointed out that the standard questions on the course evaluation form don't apply to all courses and does not provide helpful information for an instructor to improve their course. She noted that she asks her students to write a reflection on the courses she teaches.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2:30 pm. The meeting will be held in 201 Canfield Administration. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Signe Boudreau, Secretary.